

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS STATE 214335

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, TD

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ARCHAEOLOGIST

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 2190

1. DEPARTMENT PLEASED LEARN OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO REQUEST FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGIST TO DO LECTURING AND ON-SITE RESEARCH IN CONNECTION WITH CARIBBEAN ARTIFACTS OF PRE-COLUMBIAN TIMES. WE WISH GIVE OUR FULL COOPERATION.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, NO POSSIBILITY OF FINDING A QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGIST ABLE TO TRAVEL BY SEPTEMBER 1976 FOR A YEAR ABROAD, NOR OF COMPLETING REQUIRED APPLICATION, SCREENING AND SELECTION PROCESS BY THAT TIME. IN ANY CASE, WE BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERTAKING, THERE SHOULD BE PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION AND STUDY TO DETERMINE MORE EXACTLY THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE WORK TO BE DONE, BEFORE SENDING A PROFESSOR FOR A FULL ACADEMIC YEAR.

3. IN LINE WITH ABOVE, WE PROPOSE SEEKING A WELL-QUALIFIED ARCHAEOLOGIST WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH PRE-COLUMBIAN ARTIFACTS, TO SPEND A MONTH OR SIX WEEKS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO UNDER AN AMERICAN SPECIALIST GRANT. UNTIL ACTUAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 214335

RECRUITMENT IS STARTED, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT HOW SOON THE GRANTEE COULD TRAVEL BECAUSE SO MUCH DEPENDS ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S ACADEMIC OR OTHER COMMITMENTS, BUT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO FIND SOMEONE ABLE TO TRAVEL WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THEN, BASED ON THE AMSPEC'S REPORT OF THE SITUATION FROM FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE, AND WITH MORE LEAD TIME, THERE WOULD BE A BETTER POSSIBILITY OF SENDING SOMEONE IN THE FALL OF 1977 IN THE U.S. PROFESSOR CATEGORY. CONCEIVABLY THE AMERICAN SPECIALIST MIGHT HIMSELF WISH TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE LONGER OPENING NEXT YEAR.

4. WILL APPRECIATE POST COMMENTS BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. KISSINGER

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